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NEW ‘EUROPEAN ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY’ WILL GIVE OVERSEAS HORSES PATH TO AMERICA’S GREATEST RACE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017) – Building upon an initiative to further international interest in America’s greatest race, Churchill Downs officials have partnered with racing officials in England, France and Ireland to create a path to the 144th running of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands for horses based in Europe.

The new “European Road to the Kentucky Derby” is a stand-alone series of seven races that is separate from America’s 36-race “Road to the Kentucky Derby” sequence. Only one position in the starting gate for the 1 ¼-mile Kentucky Derby, to be run for 3-year-olds at world-famous Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. on Saturday, May 5, 2018, will be awarded to the horse that accrues the most points in the “European Road to the Kentucky Derby” and accepts an invitation to compete.

“With premier races for Europe’s top horses often staged on turf in the months of May through October, we felt it was important to work with our European partners to create a distinctive path for horsemen who are interested in the Kentucky Derby,” said **Bill Mudd**, President and Chief Operating Officer for Churchill Downs Incorporated. “Any European horse that intends to test the Kentucky Derby now has an opportunity to qualify for the 1 ¼-mile dirt classic by competing in the new series, which culminates with a trio of early-in-the-year races over synthetic surfaces at Kempton Park, Dundalk and Newcastle. By working with great partners at the racecourses along with the **British Horseracing Authority**, **France Galop** and **Horse Racing Ireland** governing bodies, we’re optimistic this new series can add to the worldwide popularity of the Kentucky Derby.”

The “European Road to the Kentucky Derby” includes a top-level quartet of one-mile juvenile turf races that will award points to the Top 4 finishing positions: 10 points to the winner, four points to the runner-up, two points to the third-place horse and one-point to the fourth-place finisher. The 2-year-old races are the Sept. 24 Juddmonte Beresford (Group 2) at **Naas Racecourse** in Ireland; the Sept. 30 Juddmonte Royal Lodge (G2) at England’s **Newmarket Racecourse**; the Oct. 1 Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardère (G1) on the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe undercard at France’s **Chantilly Racecourse**; and the Oct. 28 Racing Post Trophy (G1) at England’s **Doncaster Racecourse**.

Two one-mile races for 3-year-olds in early March over synthetic “all weather” racing surfaces – the Road to the Kentucky Derby Condition Stakes at England’s **Kempton Park Racecourse** on March 1 and the Patton Stakes (Listed) at Ireland’s **Dundalk Stadium** on March 2 – will be awarded points on a scale of 20-8-4-2.

The series will climax March 30 with the one-mile Burradon Stakes at England’s **Newcastle Racecourse**, in which points will increase to 30-12-6-3 for the Top 4 finishers.

“Early racing success is compensated in our series but we prefer to emphasize recent form for qualification to the Kentucky Derby, and the creation of this new path provides just that,” said **Mike Ziegler**, executive director of racing for Churchill Downs Incorporated.

Only one invitation to compete in the Kentucky Derby will be extended with preference given to the horses with the most points in the “European Road to the Kentucky Derby” series. No invitation will be extended beyond the Top 4 point earners but if a horse also qualifies through America’s 36-race “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series, the invite will be extended to the next eligible horse. If two or more horses have the same number of points, the tiebreakers are earnings in non-restricted stakes races followed by lifetime earnings.

This is the sixth year that Churchill Downs Racetrack will use a sliding scale of points awarded to the Top 4 finishers in choice races to determine preference for its 20-horse Kentucky Derby field. At least 20 horses have entered the 1 ¼-mile classic for 3-year-old Thoroughbreds every year since 2004, and 17 of the last 19 years.

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America's "Road to the Kentucky Derby" series will commence at the home of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, Sept. 16 with Churchill Downs' \$150,000 Iroquois (GIII) for 2-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles.

Since 1967, there have been 36 horses who previously raced outside North America and ran in the Kentucky Derby. Venezuela's **Canonero II** won the 1971 Derby, while **Bold Arrangement (GB)**, who was campaigned in Great Britain and France, finished second to **Ferdinand** in the 1986 renewal.

2017-18 EUROPEAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SCHEDULE

7 Races

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Sept. 24	+Juddmonte Beresford	Naas (Ire)	1 Mile (I)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Sept. 30	+Juddmonte Royal Lodge	Newmarket (GB)	1 Mile (I)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 1	+Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardère	Chantilly (Fr)	1 Mile (I)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 28	+Racing Post Trophy	Doncaster (GB)	1 Mile (I)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
March 1	+Road to the Kentucky Derby Condition Stakes	Kempton Park (GB)	1 Mile (S)	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
March 2	+Patton (Listed)	Dundalk (Ire)	1 Mile (S)	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
March 30	+Burrdon	Newcastle (GB)	1 Mile (S)	(30)	(12)	(6)	(3)

2017-18 ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SCHEDULE

36 Races

Kentucky Derby Prep Season (20 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Sept. 16	Iroquois	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Sept. 30	FrontRunner	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 7	Champagne	Belmont Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 7	Breeders' Futurity	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 4	Breeders' Cup Juvenile	Del Mar	1 1/16 Miles	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
Nov. 18	Delta Downs Jackpot	Delta Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Nov. 25	Remsen	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 25	Kentucky Jockey Club	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Dec. 9	Los Alamitos Futurity	Los Alamitos	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Dec. 17	+Springboard Mile	Remington Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 1	Jerome	Aqueduct	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 13	Sham	Santa Anita	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Jan. 15	Smarty Jones	Oaklawn Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 20	Lecomte	Fair Grounds	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 3	Robert B. Lewis	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 3	Withers	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 3	Holy Bull	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 10	Sam F. Davis	Tampa Bay Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 17	El Camino Real Derby	Golden Gate	1 1/8 Miles (S)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 19	Southwest	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

Kentucky Derby Championship Series (16 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
*Feb. 24	Risen Star	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 3	Gotham	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 3	Fountain of Youth	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 10	San Felipe	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 10	Tampa Bay Derby	Tampa Bay Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 17	Rebel	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 17	Spiral	Turfway Park	1 1/8 Miles (S)	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
*March 24	UAE Derby	Meydan Racecourse	1 3/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*March 24	Louisiana Derby	Fair Grounds	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
March 25	Sunland Derby	Sunland Park	1 1/8 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 31	Florida Derby	Gulfstream Park	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Wood Memorial	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Blue Grass	Keeneland	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 14	Arkansas Derby	Oaklawn Park	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 14	Lexington	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)

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2017-18 JAPAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SCHEDULE

3 Races

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Nov. 25	Cattlewa Sho	Tokyo Racecourse	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Dec. 13	+Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun	Kawasaki Racecourse	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Mid-Feb.	Hyacinth	Tokyo Racecourse	1 Mile	(30)	(12)	(6)	(3)

2017-18 ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS SCHEDULE

31 Races

Kentucky Oaks Prep Season (16 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Sept. 16	Pocahontas	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Sept. 30	Chandelier	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 6	Alcibiades	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 8	Frizette	Belmont Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 4	BC Juvenile Fillies	Del Mar	1 1/16 Miles	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
Nov. 18	Delta Downs Princess	Delta Downs	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Nov. 25	Demoiselle	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 25	Golden Rod	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Dec. 9	Starlet	Los Alamitos	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 7	Santa Ynez	Santa Anita	7 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 14	Busanda	Aqueduct	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 20	Silverbulletday	Fair Grounds	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 3	Forward Gal	Gulfstream Park	7 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 4	Las Virgenes	Santa Anita	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 10	+Suncoast	Tampa Bay Downs	1 Mile 40 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 10	Martha Washington	Oaklawn Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

Kentucky Oaks Championship Series (15 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
*Feb 22	UAE Oaks	Meydan Racecourse	1 3/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*Feb. 24	Busher	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*Feb. 24	Rachel Alexandra	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 3	Davona Dale	Gulfstream Park	1 Mile	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 3	Santa Ysabel	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 10	Honeybee	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 17	Bourbonette Oaks	Turfway Park	1 Mile (S)	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
*March 24	Fair Grounds Oaks	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
March 25	Sunland Park Oaks	Sunland Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 31	Gulfstream Park Oaks	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Ashland	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Santa Anita Oaks	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 7	Gazelle	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 13	Fantasy	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 19	Beaumont	Keeneland	7 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

+ New Race Included in Series.

(T) = Turf

(S) = Synthetic

* Race dates and distances to be announced by host track; date based on recent historical placement.

Note: Schedule subject to change.

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 5, 2018. The track will conduct two more live racing meets in 2017: the September Meet from Sept. 15-Oct. 1 and its Fall Meet from Oct. 29-Nov. 26. An eight-time host to the Breeders' Cup World Championships, Churchill Downs will again be the site of that event on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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